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BELCHERTOWN

School district shifts to online learning

MELINA BOURDEAU
Staff Writer

BELCHERTOWN – Hitting the four-week mark of school closures students, faculty and families are making the switch from enrichment learning to online learning.

Discussing the plan for the next month, the School Department worked quickly, assembling a plan for students to be able to learn with and without internet.

“We do not expect parents and guardians to take the place of educators. They should only be expected to provide the same level of support they would do for homework and no more.”

BRIAN CAMERON
Belchertown Superintendent of Schools

Belchertown Superintendent Brian Cameron said the plan was shared with teachers on Friday, and was shared with the public on Monday, April 6 as well as other school-specific information.

Using the guidance of the Commissioner of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Cameron said administrators and faculty have decided there would be a pass/fail period of April 7 through May 4.

According to the school’s Remote Learning Plan, “The goal for elementary students from grade preschool through grade six in our district is to do about two and a half hours of work in total (for all classes combined) per weekday. The goal is for secondary students in grades seven

See **SCHOOL**, page 3 •



A car parade drove by Christopher Heights in Belchertown last Tuesday to share joy with the residents that live there.

Positive messages shared from a distance

MELINA BOURDEAU
Staff Writer

BELCHERTOWN – With an act as simple as driving cars down the road while practicing social distancing, a group of volunteers held a car parade for the residents at the Christopher Heights assisted living facility last week.

Around 6 p.m. on Tuesday, a line of about 20 cars – some decorated with posters, others playing music or wearing funny hats – drove by Christopher Heights

to greet the residents there in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Volunteers Jennifer Whitehead, Trista Hevey and Erica Rose organized the event after seeing posts on social media about helping elders while maintaining social distancing.

“We created a page called ‘Belchertown Helps’ where people can post if they need something or how they can help others,” said Whitehead. “It’s been really positive so far, then Erica was involved in neighborhoods where they were doing birthday parades for kids whose birthday parties were canceled.”

Evelyn Riddle, a resident at Christopher Heights, held up a “Thank you” sign for the participants in the car parade last week.

See **PARADE**, page 5 •

GRANBY

Granby declares state of emergency

MELINA BOURDEAU
Staff Writer

GRANBY – The town is taking further measures for the safety of the residents in the wake of growing cases of COVID-19 in Granby. One person, who had a preexisting condition has died

due to COVID-19. There are two confirmed cases of COVID-19 and five people who are symptomatic, as of Monday, April 6.

State of Emergency

The selectboard declared a state of emergency in the town and discussed the reasons for doing so.

Granby Town Administrator Chris Martin said the new legislation and proclamations at the state and federal level allow funds to be allocated as the town sees fit during the pandemic.

“The state of emergency allows us to use any and all funds to address this pandemic

– we just need to keep the Department of Revenue in the loop,” Martin said in an interview. “We can go and borrow if we need to as well. There is also additional access to FEMA fund-

See **GRANBY**, page 5 •



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COMMUNITY

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Share your experiences with us

Note to readers: The Belchertown Sentinel would love to share how readers are coping with the efforts to stop the spread of the corona virus and its accompanying disease, COVID-19. Let us share your story by phone, email and photos, as you go about coping with children at home for the next few weeks or however long, whether you work inside or outside the home. If you would rather send just send photos in or write essays about how it is going – we'll run them. Please send all emails to Sentinel@turley.com with photos, essays or for more information or to volunteer to be part of our effort to document how people are coping with these new circumstances.

We're calling all children as well – everyone under 18 is urged to contribute artwork, essays and photos. If enough children send pieces on it's possible we could have a whole issue devoted to them. Please include full names and telephone numbers if you would like to be reached.

Belchertown Cultural Council finds creative ways to connect

STAFF REPORT

BELCHERTOWN – Since the week-long celebration of art in its many forms has been cancelled, the Belchertown Cultural Council is working on keeping people in the community creative during the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to its website, the statewide event ArtWeek 2020, which was scheduled for May 1 through May 10, got cancelled on March 20.

"We had originally hoped that a different version of the festival might be possible as we continually reassessed the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak, but the ever-increasing bad news in terms of the virus and its effects, added to the increasing gov-

ernment restrictions on public gatherings, have led us to follow the lead of national, state, and local authorities and make this extremely difficult decision," the website announcement reads.

Chair of the Belchertown Cultural Council, April Jasak-Bangs said the group is working to create "challenges" on its Facebook each week that residents can do from home.

"Everyone on the Cultural Council is super disappointed that the 2020 ArtWeek was cancelled - but safety is our number one priority," she wrote in an email. "We are hoping to move some of our programming online to help everyone feel connected and supported by the arts during social distancing. Each week we will be posting a challenge on our

Facebook page with a bunch of different resources for instructions and inspiration."

This week the group is doing an activity related to upcycling – using things around your house to create something new and interesting.

"Everyone is invited to share their creations, however successful the final product," Jasak-Bangs said.

The cultural council is seeking feedback from folks about what type of online programming they would like during these times. The cultural council can be reached on Facebook or on its website at <https://belchertownculturalcouncil.com/>.

"We want to be supportive of both our community and local artists by being a catalyst to bring everyone together," Jasak-Bangs said.

Belchertown library update

STAFF REPORT

BELCHERTOWN – With the temporary closure of the Clapp Memorial Library building in response to the coronavirus threat, now is a great time to explore the library's digital offerings, available 24-hours a day.

The Overdrive collection includes thousands of ebooks, digital audio books and magazines that can be quickly accessed after downloading the Libby App from Overdrive. Those without a current library card can still access these collections by getting an Overdrive Instant Digital Card. Instructions are available on the Library website at www.clapplibrary.org.

The Library offers a variety of electronic collections that users can access from home. These collections include Rosetta Stone, which offers an interactive, immersion approach to learning a new language; Consumer Reports Online presents ratings and reviews of thousands of consumer products; Tumblebooks is an online collection of animated, talking picture books for young children; JLG@Home offers a curated collection of ebooks for elementary, middle school and high school stu-

dents; Ancestry and HeritageQuest genealogy databases will jumpstart that search for your roots.

You can also get the latest news from the New York Times Online, along with Newsbank, comprised of a collection of online Western Massachusetts newspapers.

RomanceBookCloud is a collection of 2,000 romance ebooks, while AudioBookCloud features 1,200 always available audio books across all genres. To get the creative juices flowing, Creativebug offers videos of 1,000 plus arts and crafts classes, while Hoopla is an all-in-one media service of 700,000 titles in six different formats—audiobooks, eBooks, comics/graphic novels, full music albums, movies and television shows.

Patrons can instantly borrow items to download or stream.

For movie buffs, Kanopy allows library cardholders to stream movies from a curated collection of over 30,000 high quality titles in a variety of genres.

All this is available with a library card.

News, ideas and activities are posted throughout the day on the library's Facebook page.

For questions or assistance, email clapp@cwmar.org.

Governor issues travel guidance; extends state tax deadline

BOSTON – The Baker-Polito Administration announced new COVID-19 public health emergency responses issuing new guidelines on travel and transportation and offering further support for health care professionals and patients.

Beginning March 27, all travelers arriving to Massachusetts are instructed to self-quarantine for 14 days. This guidance will be displayed as posters at service plazas along Interstate 90 eastbound, distributed as flyers at major transportation hubs and on posted on highway message boards. Visitors are instructed not to travel to Massachusetts if they are displaying symptoms.

Health care workers, public health workers, public safety workers, transportation workers and designated essential workers are exempt from this requirement.

For more information, visit mass.gov.

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NOTICE:

The Belchertown Water District will be conducting the annual hydrant flushing program April 27th to May 8th 2020 from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. Flushing will begin in the northern end of the District and proceed south. Rusty colored water and low pressure may occur during this program.





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COMMUNITY

Coronavirus presents changing landscape for news coverage

To Our Readers,

As towns, schools and clubs continue to assess the threat posed by coronavirus, many are making the decision to cancel or postpone their public events, often with little notice.

The Belchertown Sentinel will inform readers about cancellations when known and when the newspaper's weekly deadline

will permit, but readers should be aware of the possibility that events featured in the printed newspaper, including those previewed in stories, briefs and on the calendar page, may be canceled without enough notice to print an update. The Belchertown Sentinel encourages readers to contact event coordinators and organizers to confirm that gatherings are still taking place before attending.

Belchertown Community Garden update

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Community Garden is hoping to open the Community Garden in May although there are some significant changes in what can be offered because of COVID-19, according to Eileen Klockars, a coordinator.

Due to the necessity of social distancing and creating safe, hygienic conditions, the group decided to close the shared tool shed and access to wheelbarrows provided in past years. Therefore, all gardeners will have to provide their own tools and watering cans.

"We are reluctantly evaluating the need to close access to the on-site restroom, as well," Klockars wrote in a press release.

The individual 300-square-foot plots, totaling three quarters of an acre in the

midst of the 30 plus acres of open farmland of the former Belchertown State School, afford more than the necessary distance between gardeners.

"We will provide all who use the garden with a list of steps they can take to keep themselves safe and post targeted 'reminder' signs around the site," Klockars wrote. "We are working on hands-free mechanisms for water access."

There may likely be additional changes in the coming weeks.

To receive updates about changes to the community garden this season, or to request a registration form, contact the Belchertown Community Garden at bcgardennews@gmail.com. The deadline for registration has been extended to April 25.

SCHOOL • from page 1

through 12 in our district to do about three hours of work in total (for all classes combined) per weekday.

High-interest or otherwise beneficial academic tasks (e.g., independent study, reading, physical activity, family activities, etc.) may extend beyond the minimum expectations for daily learning time but should not typically replace those provided by the teacher."

Cameron said educators also have expectations and goals for their work during this time.

"Educators are being asked to post online and have a packet available for students who don't have access to the online classes," Cameron said. "By the end of the day on Friday before the week the work is expected to be completed, the information will be posted."

Educators will hold two classes meetings per week via Googlemeet, host office hours and participate in 60 minutes of professional development per week, according to the packet.

"There are certainly expectations for students and families," Cameron said. "Number one – since things are online there are regulations around recording any and all remote lessons. They can't share confidential information about students participating or any third parties involved."

He said student expectations include checking and taking self-directive learning to complete assignments, check email and take part in office hours.

"We do not expect parents and guardians to take the place of educators," Cameron said. "They should only be expected to provide the same level of support they would do for homework and no more."

Cameron said the third quarter is going to get grades like they normally would. Conversations will be had with students who missed an assignment prior to the school cancellation.

School Committee Chair Mike Knapp asked Cameron about how the year-end grades would be determined.

"For grade seven through 12, kids get a grade at the end of the year for the entire year," Knapp said. "Is it clear how these grades are going to be determined at the end of the year?"

"It is not," Cameron said.

School Committee Vice Chair, Heidi Gutekenst asked about the expectations of students for the scheduled April vacation or Good Friday.

Cameron said if the vacation is continuing, students will not be expected to take part in learning or on Good Friday.

"We understand this is new for everyone," Cameron said. "We want to be as supportive as possible for staff, students and families as well."

BCTV schedule and shows

Note: This is the schedule as of Monday, April 6, it may be subject to change based on the town's plan coping with COVID-19.

Thursday, April 9

- 8 a.m. – April 6 Selectmen
- 10 a.m. – April 6 Board of Health
- 12 p.m. – Car Parade at Christopher Heights
- 7 p.m. – April 6 Selectmen
- 9 p.m. – April 6 Board of Health
- 11 p.m. – Car Parade at Christopher Heights

Friday, April 10

- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 9 a.m. – Memories of Belchertown
- 10 a.m. – Blue Ribbon Cooks – Comfort Food
- 7 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 8 p.m. – Memories of Belchertown – Fair Talk
- 9 p.m. – Blue Ribbon Cooks – Comfort Food

Saturday, April 11

- 9 a.m. – Car Parade at Christopher Heights
- 7 p.m. – Car Parade at Christopher Heights

Sunday, April 12

- 4:30 p.m. – St. Francis Roman Catholic Church
- 6 p.m. – Christ Community Church
- 7 p.m. – Hope United Methodist Church
- 8:30 p.m. – Car Parade at Christopher Heights

Monday, April 13

- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 9 a.m. – Blue Ribbon Cooks – Summer Cookin'
- 10 a.m. – Memories of Belchertown – P. Johnson
- 6 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 7:15 p.m. – Selectmen – Channel 191

Tuesday, April 14

- 8 a.m. – Car Parade at Christopher Heights
- 9 a.m. – Belchertown Fair 1947
- 10 a.m. – Belchertown Fair 2019
- 7 p.m. – Car Parade at Christopher Heights
- 8 p.m. – Belchertown Parade 1947
- 9 p.m. – Belchertown Fair 2019

Wednesday, April 15

- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 9 a.m. – Memories of Belchertown -Gould/LaBroad
- 10 a.m. – Blue Ribbon Cooks – Our First Show
- 7 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 8 p.m. – Memories of Belchertown-Gould/LaBroad
- 9 p.m. – Blue Ribbon Cooks-Our FirstShow

Turley the turtle count for April 2



STAFF REPORT

BELCHERTOWN – In last week's issue of the Belchertown Sentinel, there were a total of 10 Turley the turtles hiding in the pages.

Each week, the number of turtles from the previous issue will be revealed. Readers are challenged to find them all.

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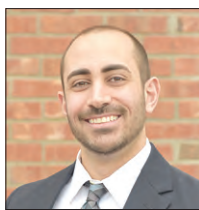
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National Telecommunicators Week

– April 12 to 18 –

MELINA BOURDEAU
Staff Writer

BELCHERTOWN – Celebrating the people who are the first voices on the phone when someone dials 911, next week marks the National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week.

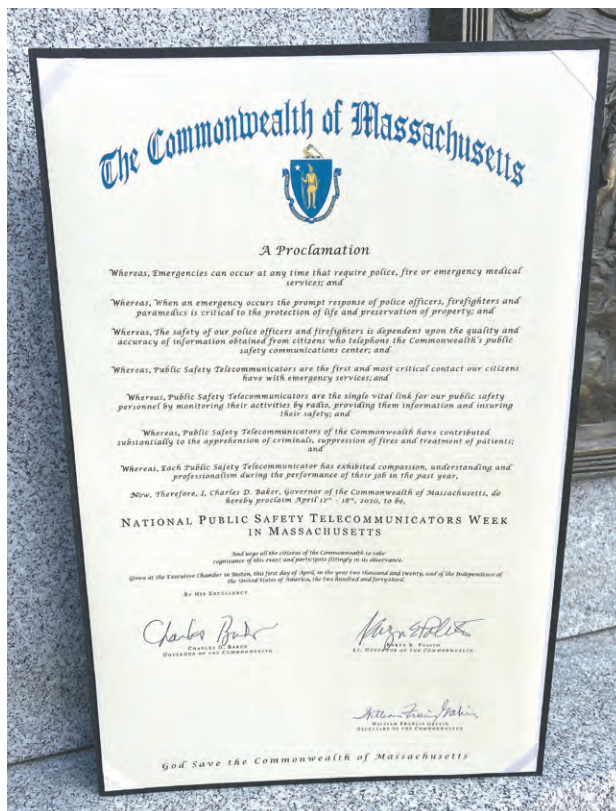
"Every year during the second week of April, the telecommunications personnel in the public safety community, are honored," according to the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials-International. "This week-long event, initially set up in 1981 by Patricia Anderson of the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office in California, is a time to celebrate and thank those who dedicate their lives to serving the public. It is a week that should be set aside so everyone can be made aware of their hard work and dedication."

Locally, in Belchertown, the selectboard formally recognized the week, while a public event is not occurring this year due to COVID-19.

Selectboard member Brenda Aldrich make the motion to accept the week and said she wanted to extend

her gratitude to the dispatchers.

Belchertown Selectmen Vice Chair Gail Gramarossa said she was wondering if there was a way to 'spread the word' about the week online.



A proclamation from Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker declares April 12 to 18 National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week.

"I have attended that event in the past and it's a great community event. I just wondered if there's any way we can spread the word through the town website or Facebook pages to thank them in an online way, since they can't do it in a public event?" she asked.

Selectboard Clerk Jen Turner agreed.

On the state level, Charles Goodwin, president of the Massachusetts Communications

Supervisors Association wrote a letter the telecommunicators of Massachusetts, recognizing the work they do, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are fighting through a difficult time in our country. Dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic is putting a strain on the members of our field," Goodwin wrote. "We are in the trenches each day, doing everything we can to ensure the public and our fellow colleagues are safe and healthy. I feel for each telecommunicator working long hours, with little contact with their own family and friends. This is the time each of you shines."

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PARADE • from page 1

Rose said using social media, the three were able to organize a small group of people while social distancing.

"We worked with the Belchertown Police Department and wanted to make sure we were doing the appropriate safety measures like making sure no one got out of their cars while they were waiting," Hevey said.

Rose added the group was relatively small and manageable.

Christopher Heights Activities Director, Laura Hicks said she has been working on projects with Whitehead.

"We were working to coordinate time and weather, it took some collaboration," Hicks said. "The residents were excited and thankful. We have no folks that are sick at this time because we've been enforcing the CDC's measures – the only visitors allowed are for medical necessity, so it means a lot to the residents."

Hicks said the parade was appreciated by the residents.

Like resident Evelyn Riddle, who said there were more cars than she expected.

"I had no idea there were so many people coming," Riddle said. "I didn't know any of them. I think that is typical of Belchertown, I've lived here for 27 years, it's a great place to live."

Similarly, Rose, Hevey and Whitehead said they enjoyed the parade just as much as the residents.

"As soon as I pulled up and saw the cars, I instantly teared up," Hevey said. "With so many things going on, it was nice to be silly and spread joy. It was heartwarming to see people waving."



Anne and Jeremy Leblond with sons Samuel and Nathan Leblond waved at residents of Christopher Heights in a car parade last week.

Rose agreed, adding, "It was that human connection even from the cars."

"I'm not sure who got the best of it," Whitehead said. "It was the highlight of my day. It was stress relief too – I wasn't thinking about anything else that's going on right now."

Christopher Heights Executive Director Dale Proulx said from "day one," the community has been supportive "of all we do here."

"From the town employees to the residents, we've been welcomed," Proulx said. "When I see (the parade) – it's in line with that support."

He said some of the residents were long-time residents of Belchertown or surrounding towns or have relatives that are

members of the community.

"We do try to use technology to connect with people, he said. "But we understand there is still a hardship. We really appreciate it."

"We hope for other people to

become interested in volunteering in different ways in the future," Rose said, recommending those that are interested in volunteering to visit the "Belchertown helps" Facebook page.



One of the organizers of the car parade was Jennifer Whitehead, who drove in the parade with her son Bryce Whitehead.



Pam and Andy Cavanaugh with their children Brady and Kaiya Cavanaugh waved at residents.



Residents of Christopher Heights waved and held up signs thanking volunteers who participated in a car parade last week.

GRANBY • from page 1

ing through the recent disaster declaration."

Charter Days

This year there will be no Granby Charter Days, following a unanimous vote of the selectboard.

Chair of the Charter Day Committee, Crystal Dufresne, made a recommendation to the board to cancel the annual event given the COVID-19 pandemic.

Granby Charter Days were originally scheduled to occur on June 12 to 14 this year at the Dufresne Park Recreation Area.

While members expressed disappointment in having to make the decision, the board stated concerns about COVID-19 pandemic extending to June and the difficulty rescheduling might be.

"We have an order to stay at home until May 4," Martin said. "By then we might be in the midst of the spike here. To try to extend the event further and get all the deposits from bands, entertainment and vendors and have to cancel last minute would be worse. Although regrettably, we have to cancel."

He added that the town has received from deposits related to Charter Days and they will be refunded.

Election and ATM

The Annual Town Meeting and the election have both been postponed. While the Annual Town Meeting has been rescheduled until June 8, as of April 6, the election date has yet to be determined by the board.

Martin said one of the problems posed with the two events is the current closures.

"If the schools are closed, we would need to find a new location," he said. "If the governor's rule of no more than 10 people can be together in an indoor setting – that creates a problem. We would have to hold the Annual Town Meeting outside."

Despite postponing the election, the deadline for nomination papers has come and gone. Martin said that deadline has not been extended.



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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN

A historical perspective

CHRISTINE HARPER

I am a Belchertown native who left for 15 years and returned in 1985. I have been fortunate to have personally known all the Sentinel editors back to the original, Lewis Blackmer, and the lady who set the type by hand in the old printshop now at the Stone House Museum, Ella Stebbins, whom I called “Aunt Ella”. The exceptions are the most recent three editors. Apparently the relatively new Wyatt Aloisio has left, and Melina Bourdeau has stepped in. I am writing to commend them both for their impressive editorials, Wyatt’s on March 12, and Melina’s on March 26. They are both such a breath of fresh air, both endorsing unity and a sense of our oneness in trying times. Wyatt suggested that we “give up our tribes for Lent.” He so spoke to me I forwarded it to my minister brother in the UK, where the citizenry is also very divided by Brexit and other issues similar to our current atmosphere. Melina also spoke of pulling together in this scary time of the virus. Bravo to you both!

It is ironic, also, for the sake of a history lesson, that my grandparents returned to reside in Belchertown as soon as they could save enough money, after the terrible Spanish flu of 1918. My grandmother had been employed in a German deli run by her uncle in Jamaica Plains, Boston. She was one of the many struck down; 695,000 actually died in our country. My grandfather stood on his front porch, seeing one, two or three coffins on each of his neighbors’ porches as he looked down his street. The doctor had just told him he did not expect my grandmother to survive, and he looked up and promised God that if she did, he would move back to Belchertown so that his family would be safe in the next pandemic. Our world has become more mobile and more global so there is no longer a truly safe place. We are all in this together! Please do your helpful bit and God bless us all!

History helps children to realize that every generation has challenges. The lessons of pulling together to survive can outweigh the fear and the unknown. Reaching out to others can help de-stress. I was lucky to be close to all four of my grandparents and learn of their challenges, as well as those of my parents. Unity and fortitude help at any time in history. The larger perspective shows how so much can be prevented, and that we should always prepare for the worst, while hoping for the best. My mother was a registered nurse and my father a fireman, so I was raised to know that preparation and prevention are so much easier than reacting. My childhood in the days of Civil Defense impressed me with community organization and good communication. Careers in this planning can be so rewarding and fulfilling, as well as helpful to our world. I hope this may start some productive and entertaining conversations!



LETTERS

Giving thanks

To everyone working at Stop & Shop and CVS (and also Checkers, the other convenience stores, and our local eateries):

Thank you for being here for all of us in Belchertown, for helping us stay fed and for making sure we have our medicines. You guys are risking your health for the rest of us every day, and just like we thank our healthcare workers for their service, I want to thank you for your service.

There are lots of others I feel so grateful

to: the USPS, delivery workers, folks at the DPW transfer station, and in my personal case, the guys from Northeast Solar coming out to solarize my house (especially Dave Baird), but I think no one sees as many people every day as the folks at Stop & Shop and the CVS pharmacy. May you all stay healthy.

Gratefully,

Francesca Forrest

Think Twice: Easter Bunnies and Coronavirus

As Easter approaches amidst the COVID-19 pandemic spreading throughout the world, I thought it’d be a good time to share my thoughts about the link between rabbits, Easter and COVID-19.

As current President of the House Rabbit Connection, Inc., Springfield, MA, a non-profit domestic rabbit rescue, I can’t stress enough about why rabbits or other live animals should never be given to children as an Easter/birthday/holiday gift.

Rabbits are very delicate creatures and do not like being picked up or held. Children often man-handle rabbits to the point where they might scratch and/or bite the child when the bunny wants to get down.

They, as any other pet animal, are lifelong family members and not ‘beginner’ pets as many would believe.

Rabbits need to chew to keep their teeth trimmed. That means your computer cord, your wood trim, furniture, and carpets and rugs etc. can all fall prey to satisfying your bunnies natural instinct to chew.

And in these days of Coronavirus many veterinarians have drastically cut their

hours to eliminate or reduce the opportunity to expose the public and staff to potential COVID-19.

That means if your bunny, dog, cat or bird needs veterinary care while this virus is affecting so many worldwide chances are it may be difficult to get an appointment for them and get the medical attention they need.

In conclusion: please hold off on adopting or buying a bunny for your family (as well as any other pet) during this pandemic, especially as an Easter gift.

Be vigilant about keeping yourself and your family safe and healthy.

Once this pandemic passes – and who knows when that’ll be – there will be plenty of time to contact a reputable animal rescue to be matched with your perfect furr-ever pet.

Sincerely,

Marlene Wilhelm
President- House Rabbit Connection, Inc.

Springfield, MA; Greater Hartford CT House Rabbit Society Chapter Manager

Bringing Comfort and Mercy

Good news gladdens our heart. It brightens our day; it renews our spirit. Today that good news is within your grasp. Words will try to relay the “geysers of goodness” that are springing up as people unite locally and globally bringing comfort and mercy.

One may wonder, “But, where’s comfort and mercy in this COVID-19 pandemic?”

Comfort arrived as millions of heroic acts—seen and unseen—happened when people of all ages, races, and creeds responded to help with humanitarian needs.

“Where did we see that?”

See where our well-being, health and safe-

ty including our educational, vocational and industrial pursuits were of utmost concerns when safety measures were started to “Cease the Spread of the COVID-19” virus. Look where our local, state and nation-wide governing and presidential authorities announced that schools, colleges, non-essential businesses, entertainment venues must close and that “social distancing” would save lives.

Within days, across our United States, millions of homebound students and adults were in homeschooling, and online educational classes.

“And, how did that happen?”

Behind the scenes multitudes of Internet per-

sonnel and providers made sure that millions of computers, cellphones and all forms of media and communication services would keep the public informed and updated as possible. These critical messaging systems also kept financial institutions and industries conversant as to how the coming economic crises would be managed.

GUEST COLUMNIST



JOAN E. B. COOMBS

See COOMBS, page 7 •

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Belchertown, Granby & Amherst SENTINEL

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1915

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POLICE LOGS

Belchertown Police

Editor's note: The following are brief explanations of select entries in the Belchertown Police log and arrests for the weeks of March 18 through March 24. The information was provided by a member of the police department based on the review of the detailed log summary. This feature is designed to provide context and explanation to some of the calls police respond to every day. Of the 25 calls police responded to, there were 8 incidents, 3 accident, 10 arrest/summons and 4 citations.

ARRESTS/SUMMONS

Friday, March 19

11 p.m. – Sergeant Bruce Jenks and Officer Vincent Daponte responded to a business where an employee reported an intoxicated individual went into the business. The employee provided the officers with a description of the vehicle the person was driving. Officers responded to the area and began observing traffic. Then, in a parking lot on Federal Street, officers observed a car with a flat tire. The officers attempted to stop the driver, when the driver began doing 60 in a 35-mph zone. As officers continued to follow the driver, the drive was swerving into the opposite lane. When the driver stopped the vehicle, the driver told the officer he was going home. Officers reported they could smell alcohol on his breath. When officers began to escort the driver to the cruiser, the man turned and kicked an officer. The driver continued to resist, and the officer deployed his taser. Later, during booking, the man spit on officers twice.

Sean T. Csogi, 31, 68 Bay Road, Belchertown, was arrested on charges of Operating under the influence of liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, failure to stop for police, speeding and two counts of assault on police office.

Bail set at \$500 transported to Hampshire County House of Corrections.

Saturday, March 21

3:11 p.m. – A 31-year-old woman from Winchendon was issued a summons to court for trespassing. Officers Jordyn Noonan and Jay Krol were dispatched to the area of Carriage Lane, where a car pulled into dirt road on the State School property. Officers found another vehicle 100-feet further in the property. Officers located a group of people. A woman said she was responsible for four boys with her and them brought back to the vehicle. The parties left the area.

Sunday, March 22

12:43 – A 42-year-old Belchertown man was issued a summons for assault on battery on household family member.

Officer Jared Lavalle and Sergeant Bruce Jenks were dispatched to the scene of a domestic. One party was locked in a bedroom.

6:16 p.m. – A 32-year-old South Hadley woman was placed into protective custody.

Officers Vincent Daponte and Michael Roney dispatched to a residence regarding a disturbance between two females who were intoxicated and fighting with each other.

Sergeant Michael Beaupre and Officer Ed Oey responded. One woman was placed into protective custody.

Monday, March 23

10:22 p.m. – Angela C. Atkins, 259 Sabin Street, 39, was arrested on charges of operating under the influence of alcohol and obstructed view/keep right on hill.

Officers were dispatched to South Main Street near the stop light where a car was stopped at light, as the light cycled through several times. The reporting party said the car struck a mailbox. Officers saw the car was driving on Main Street, passing Stop and Shop. Officers noticed car was serving, ran off the road, drifted left onto wrong side of road and initiated a stop.

After a field sobriety test, Sergeant Steven Henn and Officer Valerie Austin responded to assist. The driver was placed under arrest and a towing company contacted.

ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS

Wednesday, March 18

5:52 a.m. – Officer Andrew Lentendre assisted Belchertown Fire Department and paramedics.

Thursday, March 19

8:12 p.m. – Officer Vincent Daponte responded to a residence for a wellbeing check on individual who made suicidal statements to a friend earlier in the day. The person was put in contact with BHN clinician services.

Saturday, March 20

9:34 a.m. – Officer Jordyn Noonan was going to South Cemetery on Mill Valley Road for a report of fresh concrete poured on a gravestone. On arrival, Noonan met with the reporting party who was trying to remove the concrete from letters of the gravestone. Noonan observed a spot of damp concrete on the ground. Noonan reported he did not notice other areas were damaged, but the reporting party wanted the incident noted. The cemetery's maintenance employee wasn't aware of any other damage. Photos of the scene were taken. No permanent damage was caused, and the gravestone would be cleaned up shortly.

10:17 a.m. – Officer Jordyn Noonan received a call for large blue pick that drove by residence in area of Metacomet Street overnight. The officer was unable to locate the vehicle. Around 10:17 a.m. Noonan dispatched to another residence where two signs mounted to tree were shot by pellets. Photos were taken. The reporting party said the shots were heard around 3 a.m. Another residence reported an ax was found in their driveway and their trash can was damaged. Another resident reported their mailbox was also shot. Noonan reported it was same type of shot gun shell as the previous report. The suspect was driving a large blue pick-up with loud exhaust. It is an open investigation.

Monday, March 23

7:55 a.m. – Detective Robert Mann and Officer Jay Krol responded to a residence to assist Belchertown Fire and paramedics.

10:12 a.m. – Officer Dennis Fitzgerald spoke with a resident in regard front registration plate that was possibly stolen missing.

6:06 p.m. – Officer Jared Lavelle responded to State Street after a report of car accident. The driver reported going south on State Street into the curve, when their car slid out of control due to icy and snowy condition. The car slid through the end of driveway, struck a mailbox and went down small embankment. The car was towed from the embankment and the driver was able to leave the scene with minimal damage.

11 p.m. – Officer Michael Roney responded to Federal Street after a report of a one car accident. The driver reported losing control of their vehicle on the snow and slush covered roadway, crossed over into the left lane and rolling over onto the roof of the car after striking a large rock. The car was towed from the scene. No major injuries were reported.

Tuesday, March 24

7:30 a.m. – Officer Micahel Jablonski responded to a one car accident on Mill Valley Road where a drive lost control of their vehicle, striking large rocks due to slippery road conditions.

Granby Police

Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 77 calls for the week of March 7 through April 2. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. All information is provided by the Granby Police Department.

ARRESTS/SUMMONS

There were no arrests or summons this week.

ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS

Saturday, March 28

8:28 p.m. – Officers responded to a report of an accident at East State Street and Kendall Street for an investigation of two car accident. No injuries were reported.

Monday, March 30

8:36 a.m. – Officers investigated an attempted breaking and entering at a farm stand on Amherst Street.

11:23 a.m. – Officers investigated fraudulent charges made with a resident's credit card at a Batchelor Street residence.

Thursday, April 2

2:10 p.m. – Officer investigate a two-car accident at the intersection of West Street and Amherst Street. No injuries were reported.

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COOMBS • from page 6

“That’s good news. Where’s comfort and mercy?”

Comfort and mercy arrived as a life-threatening virus began spreading from shore to shore, country to country and to global continents. Support came from dedicated custodial staffs to diligent medical teams working inside buildings and hospitals. Aid arrived with the military helping patrolling state troopers, police and Emergency Medical Teams and fire personnel “Ready to roll” when and wherever needed-as much as humanly possible.

Acts of caring and compassion sprang into action. Anywhere. Everywhere. People sensed a new, deeper, keener responsibility for a child, an at-risk senior, a lonely neighbor, single parents, the homeless and the urgent increase of community needs. Country-wide and globally houses of worship streamlined the Good News through internet services or were permitted to have parking lot services wearing face masks, gloves, using microphones for sermons and music—while keeping rules of “social distancing.”

Restaurant and school kitchen staffs began supplying student meals. Charitable kitchens stirred up meals for the needy. Fabric stores donated materials for masks for each drive-by, pick-up seamstress. Face-mask patterns covered the internet. Sewing machines had adults and youth “in stitches!” Colorful hospital masks were shared, collected and delivered to medical centers. Breweries converted to bottling hand sanitizers. Car manufacturers started producing ventilators. When restaurants closed, food pick-up services expanded. Drive-up and drive-thru windows efficiently and deliciously served hot meals to hungry and thankful people.

Comfort and mercy arrived and helped mitigation in countless courageous, non-stop, 24/7 day and night shifts by air, land and sea workers with life-challenging situations. As days unfold, heroic helpers and grace agents are amazingly evident and will increase. Throughout global

areas, psychological and physical relief will especially be experienced by patients, providers, researchers in the sciences and medical fields as antidotes, therapies and vaccines are discovered and proven safe enough to use and save lives.

Good news also arrived when the United States Navy Ship Comfort sailed into New York City harbor and the USNS Mercy navigated into the Los Angeles, CA port. Both are “Mercy-class” hospital ships named for the virtue mercy. Each ship is fully staffed and equipped to provide acute medical and surgical services with 1,000 beds for patient care.

Good news gladdens our hearts. May it continue bringing comfort and mercy.

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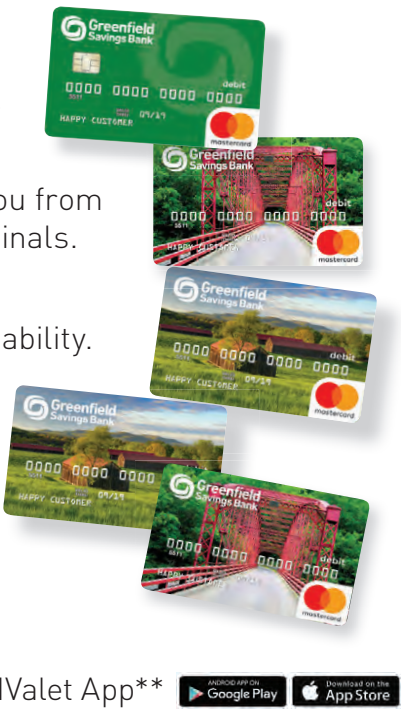
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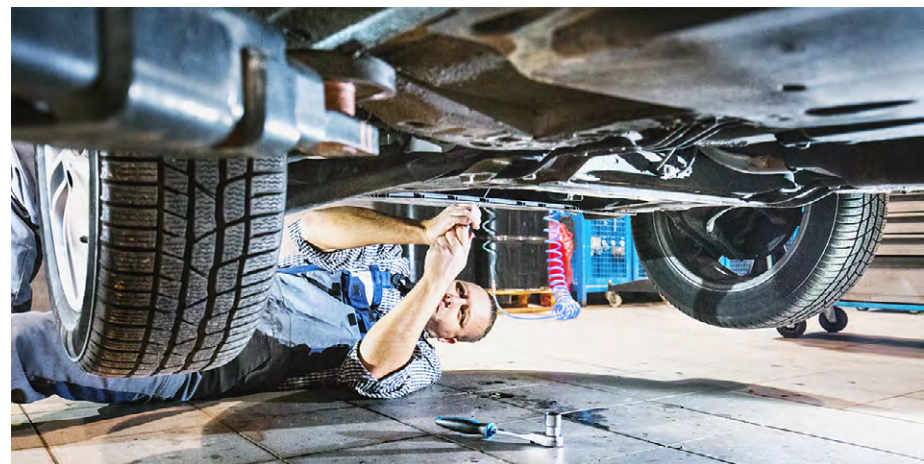


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APRIL IS CAR CARE MONTH



The importance of routine vehicle maintenance

Owning a car is a big responsibility. Drivers who plan to keep their vehicles for the long haul must emphasize maintenance if they want to keep adding miles to their odometers. In fact, the automotive information site CarAdvice says that routine maintenance may be the most important thing drivers can do for their vehicles.

A vehicle needs consistent care if it is to run efficiently. Maintenance also reduces the risk of roadside breakdowns and costly

repairs. Here's a look at some of the benefits of staying on top of maintenance.

- **Saves money:** Even though maintenance costs money, sticking to a consistent maintenance schedule can save big bucks in the long run. For example, the cost of rotating and aligning tires is considerably less than repairing a car after a major blow-out and paying for a tow and tire replacement.

See **MAINTENANCE**, page 11 •



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How to inspect and maintain vehicle belts

Responsible vehicle ownership involves taking inventory of the automobile and ensuring it is working at peak capacity. Hundreds of parts work together to keep vehicles on the road, but quite often drivers do not look under the hood until something is amiss.

Routine maintenance is widely acknowledged as a critical component of responsible vehicle ownership, but many motorists may not know how to care for their cars. Belts are one example of components that are integral to efficient, well-running vehicles. The automotive resource iDriveSafely.com indicates that belts are some of the most crucial moving parts in the engine.

Belts transmit power between shafts, and all belts, from serpentine belts to V-belts to timing belts, all serve important functions.

- **Serpentine belt:** Firestone® Complete Auto Care says a serpentine belt is a long, snaking, winding belt that keeps parts such as the water pump, alternator, power steering pump, and air conditioning running smoothly. Serpentine belts transport power to automotive accessories. A failing serpentine belt can cause enormous and expensive headaches, including overheating and loss of steering power.

- **V-belts:** Also known as drive belts, these are usually found in older vehicles. Unlike serpentine belts, which run through

various parts, V-belts run through one or two accessories. Older cars with many belts and whistles will have multiple V-belts, and should one break, it may not cause as much of an issue as if a serpentine belt were to falter.

- **Timing belt:** Advance Auto Parts says that most cars have interference engines in which the clearance between moving parts is so small that they can end up bumping into each other if they're not running on the same timing as one another. That is where the timing belt comes into play. It connects the crankshaft to the camshaft, helping them stay in sync. Failing to pay attention to a timing belt can result in an expensive

engine repair.

Belts have finite service lives, and heat and wear and tear are usually their nemeses. It is important to look for fraying or cracking of belts. Even belts that look new may have worn out grooves that lose their grips on matching pulley grooves. Mechanics often use special gauges to check belts.

Belts also may need to be replaced due to oil or grease contamination that can damage the rubber or synthetic rubber. It is important to check the owner's manual and seek advice from a qualified mechanic about when belts should be serviced.

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Tire maintenance keeps drivers safe

Maintaining tires is an important component of safe driving. Tires are some of the hardest working parts on a car or truck and are subjected to wear and tear every time rubber meets the road.

Tires affect many components of driving, including handling, braking and the comfort of the ride. Maintaining tires makes driving safe not only for drivers and their passengers, but also for fellow motorists.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says that, in 2017, 738 fatalities occurred because of tire-related crashes. Many of those crashes were no doubt preventable, and that only highlights the importance of maintaining tires and monitoring their performance.

Poor tire maintenance can lead to premature wear and potentially result in a blow-out. The automotive group AAA notes it is important to visually inspect tires as often as possible. Drivers should look for overall tread wear. Pay special attention to tread wear on one edge of the tires, which could indicate poor alignment. Erratic tread wear

may mean tires are out of balance.

Drivers also should pay attention to how their cars drive and sounds. Unusual vibration or thumping noises suggest issues with the tires. A car that pulls in one direction also may be experiencing tire problems.

Vehicle owners should be aware of the routine maintenance steps that can keep them safe and improve the life expectancy of tires.

- **Tire pressure:** The NHTSA says only 19 percent of consumers properly check and inflate their tires. Keeping tires properly inflated is one of the most important steps to maintaining them. Tires lose around 1 psi per month, and underinflated or overinflated tires can contribute to unusual wear, blow-outs and even excessive fuel consumption.

- **Rotation:** Check the owner's manual or recommendations from the tire manufacturer, but know that most mechanics advise having tires rotated every 5,000 to 8,000 miles. Rotation helps distribute wear more evenly on tires.

- **Balancing:** AAA says balancing also helps minimize uneven wear and tear.

Balanced tires are achieved by using small weights attached to the wheels to limit vibration of the tire and wheels as they turn. New tires should be balanced, and tires also should be balanced after one or more is removed to repair a puncture.

- **Alignment:** Vehicles have wheel alignment measurements that pertain to manufacturers' specifications. Alignment that falls outside of the range can impact handling, fuel economy and tread wear. A drift or pull suggests alignment problems and should be addressed.

Vehicle owners should keep tire inspection and maintenance in mind as part of their overall car care plan.



MAINTENANCE • from page 9

- **Improves performance and efficiency:** Routine maintenance includes oil changes, filter changes and fluid top-offs. Such tasks keep engines running smoothly. Ignoring this routine maintenance can put engines in jeopardy of breaking down and adversely affect vehicle performance, diminishing fuel economy and leading to a sluggish ride.

- **Identifies safety issues:** Routine inspections and work performed by reputable service stations help drivers stay abreast of recalls or issues that can affect the safety of the vehicle.

- **Maintains a maintenance record:** When the time comes to sell the vehicle, having a log of routine maintenance indicates to potential buyers that the vehicle was well cared for.

- **Keeps compliance:** Vehicles covered under manufacturer's warranties typically need to be maintained in adherence to factory-recommended maintenance schedules. This ensures that the vehicle is in compliance and will be covered in the event of a warranty claim.

Routine vehicle maintenance is important for a variety of reasons. Drivers can work with a trusted and reliable mechanic to develop a schedule that keeps their cars and trucks on the road.

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Church services offered online

STAFF REPORT

BELCHERTOWN – For those looking to attend services while social distancing, services can be found on the web.

Christ Community Church at 1255 Federal Street.

Facebook live 10 a.m. every Sunday: www.facebook.com/gracefortheway.

“Evening Grace” short devotionals or words of encouragement each night will be posted to the Facebook page as well.

All sermons and other resources can also be found on our website, www.gracefortheway.org.

The office can still be contacted, office@gracefortheway.org or 413-253-0292, there are no office hours currently but voicemail and emails will be checked remotely each day.

We also have a food pantry, pick-ups the first Saturday of each month at Dwight Chapel, 885 Federal St., Belchertown.

Those interested in receiving a box of dry goods from the pantry are requested to call/email the office.

The church will also be hosting a virtual egg hunt. Interested participants should go to the church’s Facebook page, download a picture of an egg and take a picture of it “in a great hiding place.” Then post the picture of the hidden egg on the Facebook page or the church’s Instagram.

All posts will be entered into a random drawing. First place is a \$25 Amazon gift card and second is a \$15 Amazon gift card.

Those wishing not to share the photo on social media can email their entry to office@gracefortheway.org.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish, 24 Jabish Street

March 28 update: Per directive from the Bishop, Masses will not resume in time for Holy Week or Easter. Palms will not be handed out until Masses resume.

Chalice of Salvation will broadcast on Holy Thursday and Good Friday at 11 a.m. on WWLP22 in addition to their normal Sunday broadcasts for Palm Sunday and Easter. Watch here for more information about Mass with Fr. David during Holy Week.

The Business office is closed but you can conduct necessary business via email or phone. The chapel also remains closed.

Bulletins are available online or between the doors of the office. Contribution Envelopes can mail, saved until Masses resume, or online giving can be used via this website and the Parish App.

Scriptures are being posted on the Church’s Facebook page.

Hope United Methodist Church, 31 Main Street, Belchertown

Tuesday morning bible study: 10 a.m. on Zoom

Thursday morning prayer and music: 10 a.m. on Zoom

On Sunday, April 12 at 9 a.m. - Sunday School, and at 10 a.m. - Livestreamed Worship Service on Facebook.

Questions can be forwarded to 413-323-7584 or btownhopeumc@gmail.com.

Belchertown United Church of Christ

Services have been held by phone or on Zoom. Updates are posted on Belchertown United Church of Christ Facebook page. Questions can be forwarded to 413-323-7442 or belchertownucc@yahoo.com

Mayflower 400th anniversary artifact

BELCHERTOWN – Tenth-generation Belchertown native and thirteenth-generation Pioneer Valley lifelong historian and genealogist, Christine (Gould) Harper inspects a family keepsake given to her father, Sherman Gould, when he worked for the MA Dept of Natural Resources starting in the 1950s. This year is the 400th anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims in Massachusetts.

There will be many observances throughout the year and Harper thought it time to re-examine the heirloom discussed as a possible table project over the years.

“The slab of Devon oak from the United Kingdom was used as one of several materials of ballast, including stones and iron ingots, when the Mayflower II reproduction sailed the Atlantic from England to America in 1957,” Harper wrote in an email. “The inset shows an enlargement of one of the stamped impressions identifying its source and authentication. The second ship has undergone multiple restorations and will be prominent in anniversary celebrations.”

Harper has “deep roots” in the area, but also a global perspective, with a masters in Change and Diversity.

“(I am) aware of the multi-perspectives of every one of our historical events,” Harper wrote. “(My) ancestors have had many wonderful, as well as disturbing, interactions with Native Americans.”

One of her closest friends for over 60 years in Belchertown was a Cherokee, as well as two childhood Lakota friends. The subject of all the tribes is close to her heart.

Growing up in Belchertown, leaving for 15 years and returning in 1985, Chris was fortunate to know more than a dozen Pilgrim



Christine (Gould) Harper inspects a family keepsake given to her father, Sherman Gould, when he worked for the Massachusetts Department of Natural Resources starting in the 1950s.

descendants in Belchertown. Although some have now passed on, there are still surviving members of the Collard and Fuller families, along with Petersons still in other states, all descended from a Fuller onboard that first ship. One neighbor is a direct descendant of John and Priscilla Alden.

She said, “Hopefully this can precipitate some conversations with schoolchildren home during this time!”

COMMITTED TO OUR COMMUNITY

In light of the recent Coronavirus outbreak, we have taken many measures to help the families we serve. While keeping our funeral homes safe and clean is important, it is equally important to find creative solutions for families who cannot meet with us in person.

As many of our community members are beginning to limit their time in public spaces, we are making changes to help every family make arrangements and gather from wherever they feel safest and most comfortable. **We are prepared to help you make arrangements online, via video call or over the phone. We can even live stream memorial services for family members that cannot attend.**

We will make any changes necessary to accommodate your family — today and always. We are here for you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you have any questions, call us today at 413-283-9061.

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Belchertown Water District

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Due to COVID-19 protocol the 2019 Belchertown Water District Consumer Confidence Report is available by mail by calling (413)323-6987.

It is available online on the District website
www.belchertownwaterdistrict.org under “Reports”
Direct URL:
[https:// www.belchertownwaterdistrict.org/Forms/ccrreport2019.bwd.pdf](https://www.belchertownwaterdistrict.org/Forms/ccrreport2019.bwd.pdf)

As the virus passes the report will be available at our main office located at 206 Jabish Street or at the Belchertown Selectman’s office as well as the Belchertown Public Library.

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Granby Community Access Schedule/ Shows

Program schedules for Channel 12 air in two-week cycles. The following programs have been listed for the week of April 9 to April 23.

- Monday, April 13, 20**
 - 7 a.m. – Yoga for Health
 - 8 a.m. – Healthy Bones & Balance
 - 9 a.m. – Open Mic Poetry
 - 10 a.m. – A Quilter’s Touch
 - 11:30 a.m. – New England Authors
 - 12 p.m. – Smart Boating
 - 12:30 p.m. – Eat Well, Be Happy
 - 2:30 p.m. –The Garage
 - 3 p.m. – Abelvision
 - 4 p.m. – 250th Spring Barn Dance 2018
 - 6 p.m. – Yoga for Health
 - 7 p.m. –Eat Well, Be Happy
 - 8 p.m. – Open Mic Poetry
 - 9 p.m. – A Quilter’s Touch
 - 10 p.m.- WWII History
- Tuesday, April 14, 21**
 - 7 a.m. – Seniors on the Move
 - 8 a.m. – Alivelihood
 - 9 a.m. – Fast Forward
 - 10 a.m. –Walk in the Garden
 - 11 a.m. – Tracing Your Family Roots
 - 12 p.m. – Songspeak
 - 1 p.m. – Summer Concert
 - 4 p.m. – Fast Forward
 - 5 p.m. – Alivelihood
 - 5:30 p.m. – Tracing Your Family Roots
 - 6 p.m. – Forge Pond Walk Through
 - 7 p.m. – Songspeak
 - 8 p.m. – The Granby Journal
 - 9 p.m. – Flight School
- Wednesday, April 15, 22**
 - 7 a.m. – The Garage
 - 7:30 a.m. – Paint w/Kevin
 - 8:30 a.m. – Smart Boating
 - 9 a.m. –Eat Well, Be Happy
 - 10:30 a.m. – Hollywood Makeover
 - 11 a.m. – Hollywood Makeover
 - 11:30 a.m. Cinemaniacs
 - 12:30 p.m. – Healthy Bones & Balance
 - 2:30 p.m. – Tech Throwback
 - 4 p.m. – Paint w/Kevin
 - 4:30 p.m. Cinemaniacs
 - 5:30 p.m. Hollywood Makeover
 - 6 p.m. – Hollywood Makeover
 - 6:30 p.m. – Eat Well, Be Happy
 - 7 p.m. – Tech Throwback
 - 7:30 p.m. – Smart Boating
 - 8 p.m. – Summer Concert
 - 9 p.m. WWII History
 - 10 p.m. – Sci-Fi Journal
- Thursday, April 16, 23**
 - 7 a.m. –Tai Chi
 - 8 a.m. – Songspeak
 - 9 a.m. – Yoga for Health

- 10 a.m. – Abelvision
 - 12 p.m. – Cineamaniacs
 - 1 p.m. – WWII History
 - 2 p.m. Forge Pond Walk Through
 - 3:30 p.m. – New England Authors
 - 4 p.m. – Walk in the Garden
 - 5 p.m. – Open Mic Poetry
 - 6 p.m. – Fast Forward
 - 7 p.m. – WWII History
 - 7:30 p.m. – Tracing Your Family Roots
 - 9 p.m. – E-Sports Match
- Friday, April 17, 24**
 - 7 a.m. –Conversations with George
 - 9 a.m. – Healthy Bones & Balance
 - 11:30 a.m. – Flight School
 - 1 p.m. –Eat Well, Be Happy
 - 2 p.m. – Forge Pond Walk Through
 - 4 p.m. – Healthy Bones & Balance
 - 6 p.m. – A Quilter’s Touch
 - 7 p.m. – Paint w/Kevin
 - 8 p.m. – Forge Pond Walk Through
 - 10 p.m. – Local Rock
- Saturday, April 18, 25**
 - 7 a.m. – Yoga for Health
 - 7:30 a.m. – The Garage
 - 8:30 a.m. – Open Mic Poetry
 - 9:30 a.m. – Flight School
 - 10 a.m. – Abelvision
 - 10:30 a.m. –Fast Forward
 - 11:30 a.m. – Granby Journal
 - 12:30 p.m. – Tracing Your Family Roots
 - 1:30 p.m. – Tech Throwback
 - 2:30 p.m. – WWII History
 - 3 p.m. – Library Event
 - 5 p.m. – Library Event
 - 8 p.m. – Songspeak
 - 9 p.m. – WWII History
 - 10 p.m. – Creature Features
- Sunday, April 19, 26**
 - 7 a.m. – Seniors on the Move
 - 8 a.m. – Open Mic Poetry
 - 10 a.m. – Healthy Bones & Balance
 - 12 p.m. – GCAM Retro
 - 3:30 p.m. – In the Garden w/ Liz
 - 4:30 p.m. – Paint w/ Kevin
 - 5 p.m. Healthy Bones & Balance
 - 6 p.m. – Smart Boating
 - 7 p.m. – Fast Forward
 - 7:30 p.m. – New England Authors
 - 8 p.m. – Cinemaniacs
 - 9 p.m. – Tech Throwback
 - 10 p.m. – Fast Forward
 - 11 p.m. – Sci-Fi Journal
- Program schedules for Channel 15 air in two-week cycles with the exception of state and local meetings which will change periodically. The following programs have been listed for the week of April 9 to April 23.

- Monday, Apr. 13, 20**
 - Local Meetings All Day
 - 8 a.m. - Healthy Bones & Balance
 - 10 a.m. - Governor Baker Press Conference
 - 2 p.m. – Healthy Bones & Balance
 - 6 p.m. – Governor Baker Press Conference
 - 7 p.m. – Healthy Bones & Balance
- Tuesday, April 14, 21**
 - State and Local Meetings All Day
 - 10 a.m. – Healthy Bones & Balance
 - 11 a.m. – Governor Baker Press Conference
 - 5 p.m. – Healthy Bones & Balance
 - 6 p.m. – Governor Baker Press Conference
- Wednesday, April 15, 22**
 - Local Meetings All Day
 - 8 a.m. - Healthy Bones & Balance
 - 10 a.m. Governor Baker Press Conference
 - 2 p.m. – Healthy Bones & Balance
 - 6 p.m. – Governor Baker Press Conference
 - 7 p.m. Healthy Bones & Balance
- Thursday, April 16, 23**
 - State and Local Meetings All Day
 - 10 a.m. - Healthy Bones & Balance
 - 11 a.m. – Governor Baker Press Conference
 - 1 p.m. – Healthy Bones & Balance
 - 6 p.m. – Governor Baker Press Conference
 - 7 p.m. – Healthy Bones & Balance
- Friday, April 3, 10**
 - 7 a.m. – School Committee
 - 11 a.m. – Healthy Bones & Balance
 - 12:00 p.m.- Granby Rams E-Sports Match
 - 1 p.m. – Governor Baker Press Conference
 - 2 p.m. – School Committee
 - 6 p.m. – Healthy Bones & Balance
 - 7 p.m. – Granby Rams E-Sports Match

- 8 p.m. – Governor Baker Press Conference
 - 9 p.m. – School Committee
- Saturday, April 17, 24**
 - 7 a.m. – Healthy Bones & Balance
 - 8 a.m. – Granby Rams E-Sports Match
 - 9 a.m. – Governor Baker Press Conference
 - 10 a.m. – School Committee
 - 2 p.m. – Healthy Bones & Balance
 - 3 p.m. – Granby Rams E-Sports Match
 - 4 p.m. – Governor Baker Press Conference
 - 5 p.m. – School Committee
 - 9 p.m. – Granby Rams E-Sports Match
- Sunday, April 18, 25**
 - 7 a.m. – Governor Baker Press Conference
 - 8 a.m. – School Committee
 - 12 p.m.- Healthy Bones & Balance
 - 1 p.m. – Granby Rams E-Sports Match
 - 2 p.m. – Governor Baker Press Conference
 - 3 p.m. – School Committee
 - 7 p.m. – Healthy Bones & Balance
 - 8 p.m. – Granby Rams E-Sports Match
 - 9 p.m. – Governor Baker Press Conference
 - 11 p.m. –Granby Rams E-Sports Match

Granby Community Access & Media, Inc. is Granby’s Public Access Television Station, provided for by the current cable license. The GCAM studio is located at 121 West State St., Granby. GCAM Channels are Public Channel 12 and Government and Education Channel 15. To view a full version of the schedule, please visit GCAM online at www.granbymedia.com. The schedule is subject to change and programing airs in two-week cycles. To watch select meetings and shows online, please visit the GCAM Youtube page and check out the station’s Instagram page. @gcamtv.

GCAM is an independent, non-profit organization, governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, run by a small staff, and available for use by residents of Granby, employees who work within the town limits of Granby, and non-profit organizations that serve Granby, Massachusetts. If Granby residents have an idea for a program or would like to produce a show, please contact GCAM Program Coordinator Alex LaMarche by emailing director@granbymedia.com or call 413-467-1180.

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Bored, here you go!

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CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to car care.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 21 = e)

A. 13 21 26 8 22 10 21

Clue: Car or truck

B. 17 9 8 12 3 9 8 12

Clue: Take care of

C. 21 12 11 8 12 21

Clue: Converts power into motion

D. 17 21 22 26 9 12 8 22

Clue: Fixes cars

Answers: A. vehicle B. maintain C. engine D. mechanic

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to cars.

T M O O R

Answer: Motor

Guess Who?

I am an actor born in New York on April 10, 1974. I graduated from Dartmouth College and began my career on the Broadway stage. I have been nominated for a Tony Award. But fans know me best as a small town cop from a popular Netflix series.

Answer: David Harbour

CAR CARE WORD SEARCH

E	K	A	T	N	I	L	M	H	A	K	Z	R	R	U	V	E	X	E	Z
Z	U	S	E	N	I	G	N	E	V	Y	I	Y	L	M	R	L	X	S	R
B	I	C	A	Z	B	U	X	V	N	L	Y	R	N	H	O	H	M	L	E
R	D	U	A	E	G	U	A	G	V	E	D	O	O	F	A	A	M	D	Z
M	H	C	T	U	L	C	E	G	M	V	R	N	I	U	M	L	H	S	B
A	D	M	C	Z	C	B	D	I	M	M	A	M	S	N	S	E	Y	A	Z
R	N	S	E	S	O	R	S	M	A	O	R	T	S	G	T	S	G	V	A
N	O	K	T	S	R	S	A	I	S	N	C	E	I	G	A	E	N	B	G
O	S	T	L	E	I	K	N	F	O	A	Z	E	M	G	T	I	O	A	L
I	R	I	A	O	E	T	O	F	M	E	U	U	S	N	S	D	T	A	F
T	S	X	N	N	E	R	Z	B	E	A	V	E	N	I	O	T	E	T	R
I	R	S	B	N	R	K	I	R	E	S	S	C	A	K	M	I	K	C	U
N	A	A	A	B	S	E	F	N	V	F	Y	B	R	A	R	R	S	O	S
G	H	N	D	C	F	I	T	B	G	U	S	B	T	R	E	E	A	H	A
I	C	L	T	U	T	X	C	L	V	E	T	L	O	B	H	S	G	M	H
E	E	T	E	N	F	M	I	G	A	L	E	R	Z	F	T	T	Y	A	M
T	C	R	A	D	I	A	T	O	R	V	M	V	S	E	S	O	H	O	V
M	V	U	I	D	R	I	V	E	T	R	A	I	N	A	F	D	U	Z	I
F	I	L	T	E	R	V	I	L	T	K	E	N	H	D	T	Z	D	F	G
M	N	B	O	B	L	Z	L	O	Z	A	K	B	E	V	T	B	A	H	F

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

ALTERNATOR
ANTIFREEZE
BRAKING
CLUTCH
DIESEL
DRIVETRAIN
EMISSIONS
ENGINE
EXHAUST
FAN
FILTER
FUEL
GASKET
GAUGE
HOSES
IGNITION
INTAKE
MAINTENANCE
RADIATOR
STEERING
SYSTEM
THERMOSTAT
TIRES
TRANSMISSION

9			7	5				3
	3				6		5	2
						8	4	9
	9			6		1		
				3				8
4		5		9	1		3	
5	4	1		8		3	6	
	8	7					2	
						5		

Happy Easter

answers for the week of 4/1

7	9	5	8	1	2	4	6	3
1	4	3	6	5	9	7	8	2
8	2	6	7	4	3	5	9	1
2	5	1	4	9	7	6	3	8
9	6	7	5	3	8	1	2	4
4	3	8	1	2	6	9	7	5
5	8	2	9	6	4	3	1	7
3	1	9	2	7	5	8	4	6
6	7	4	3	8	1	2	5	9

ANSWERS WILL BE IN NEXT WEEKS PAPERS

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Belchertown Senior Center News

STAFF REPORT

BELCHERTOWN – For the health and well-being of all, the Belchertown Council on Aging/Belchertown Senior Center will be closed to the public until further notice until at least May 4.

Brown bag Friday is April 10. Those who receive a bag should make every effort to arrive at the senior center between 10 and 11 a.m. to pick up their bag or call Executive Director, Jessica Langlois at 413-323-0420 ext. 503 to make arrangements for pick up.

Pick up will be in the front of the building in a drive-through fashion.

Recipients simply need to pull up to the front of the building state their name and their bags will be put in their car for them by staff.

Staff will continue to report and will be available to assist residents during the hours of 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. from Monday through Friday by calling 413-323-0420.

Constant monitoring and re-evaluation of this closure will continue and all recommendations from the Town of Belchertown

will be followed.

During this closure:

Meals on Wheels will continue to be delivered. Congregate meal participants or any other individuals age 60 plus in need of meals delivery can contact the Nutrition Department.

Social Services/Outreach appointments will be conducted by phone whenever possible and in person only when absolutely necessary.

Evaluation of availability of other services is underway based on staffing and safety, and updates

will be posted on the Belchertown Senior Center Facebook page.

The state tax filing deadline has been extended to July 15, however it is unknown if AARP will reschedule appointments but those with appointments will receive automated call updates.

The Council on Aging is a community-based resource for citizens of Belchertown ages 60 and over. They serve the needs of an average of 175 elders each day. The Senior Center, located just off Route 202 at the William Gerald Whitlock Municipal Complex

(next to the police station), is home to a variety of programs and services.

The BCOA remains committed to the well-being of our community. The care of all who attend the BCOA continues to be of utmost importance. Anyone who needs assistance or is aware of others who are in need of services, please contact the senior center at 413-323-0420.

Please like or follow the Belchertown Senior Center Facebook page for updates.

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MIAA still hopes to have sectional tournaments

GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
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The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association still seems hopeful of having a spring season as well as a spring tournament after “going back on its decision.” In a vote held in mid-March, the Board of Directors voted that it would cancel tournament play if the start date for spring sports was delayed past April 27. When Gov. Charlie Baker announced on March 25 that the closure of schools, non-essential businesses, and a general stay-at-home advisory would extend until May 4, the MIAA and its

board knew it would obviously be unable to start practices prior to that May 4. The board then met again on March 30, agreeing that that the season can begin no earlier than May 4. However, in a surprise turn, the board did not follow through on its decision to cancel tournaments. Instead, the season was extended from June 20 to June 27 (or June 28 pending weather and facility needs). That vote was a unanimous 19-0 decision. This means if Massachusetts is able to re-open schools and allow high school sports to commence, there will still be a tournament. However, one caveat that is still

in play is an ironic one. If there is a tournament, the tournament will only be the four individual sectional tournaments held. There will be no state tournament. A little more than a month ago, the state’s schools voted to go to a statewide tournament rather than have sectional tournaments, with the four sectional champions facing off in a state tournament. A few other votes took place at the March 30 meeting, which was held by teleconference, much like the last few meetings of the MIAA BOD. The board is still requiring seven days from the first day of practice before games can be played. This means that no actual contests can take place before May

11. Under the rules set up at the March 24 board meeting, schools will play between eight and 12 actual contests. This will be the case for baseball, softball, boys and girls lacrosse, tennis, and boys volleyball. To qualify for tournament, a team must have at least eight contests. There are typically between 16 and 20 contests for most sports, though tennis sometimes ranges between 14 and 20 contests for an individual school. The new cutoff date for regular season contests will be June 12 with seeding occurring on June 13. Tournaments would begin on June 15. Additionally, the board tasked

the Tournament Management Committee, which has been working closely with the Board of Directors, with coming up with a tournament structure to be submitted to the board for April 9. A future board meeting has not been scheduled, but board meetings have been called each time new guidance has been put out by the state government. Current CDC guidelines and federal advisories limit interaction to groups of no more than 10 people. It is possible, depending on how rigorously the guidelines are relaxed, that athletes are able to play sports the remainder of the spring, but they could have to do so without any crowds present.

TOURNAMENT



PVIAC looking to keep tournament alive

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REGION – While the state will move toward implementing a statewide tournament in the fall of 2021, at least one section plans to attempt to have its own tournament. The Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference, the governing body of the sports played by schools in Western Massachusetts, has confirmed it will seek to have its own tournament, likely to be built into the regular season. David Stratton, athletic director of Agawam High School, and a member of the PVIAC Board of Directors, said his board is going to pursue options to hold a similar sectional tournament for most sports. Lou Conte, a former athletic director at Agawam, and the PVIAC’s Executive Secretary, said the PVIAC is working on gathering as much information as possible to propose what a tournament would look like. “We have experience having tournaments,” said Conte. “We do one for indoor track, outdoor track, and cross country. But

we have not done them with the team sports. We would have to see how the logistics would work out.” Among the more popular tournaments are fall tournaments for soccer and the winter tournament for basketball to name Western Mass. champions in those respective sports. Stratton believes the region still deserves to have a tournament. “The tournament has always been important to the schools, and to the kids,” said Stratton. “Our board would like to see us have a sectional tournament still. Many schools in Western and Central Massachusetts opposed the statewide tournament proposal in a vote taken on Feb. 28 at Assabet Valley Technical High School. The vote saw more than 330 schools participate, with the majority deciding to go with a statewide tournament. More than 100 votes went against the proposal, meaning some Eastern Massachusetts schools voted against it, some feeling the proposal needed more time to develop.



FILE PHOTOS
The Western Massachusetts tournament has yielded special memories for many of the area schools that participate. The PVIAC hopes to keep the tournament alive after the state made the decision to hold a statewide tournament only. That tournament will begin in fall 2021.

GOLF

Early golf season derailed

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REGION – Sports have become non-existent since the coronavirus took over daily life in Massachusetts and the entire country. But for a while, there was one sport many people could turn to: golf. Golf could have been a beautiful activity given that it lends itself to social distancing and does not involve too many people in the same place at the same time. But social distancing was not enough, and Gov. Charlie Baker closed all non-essential businesses and issued the stay-at-home advisory, which is now extended until May 4. Unfortunately for some golf courses, they had to close up shop after it appeared an early spring was going to allow for people to get some rounds in. Cold Spring Country Club in Belchertown opened up on March 9. David Wright said the course opened and remained open for a couple of weeks. But the non-essential business closure made by Baker cut the early season short and Wright said the course has been closed on March 20. “A small maintenance crew will be starting part time on Monday, April 6 and will be doing just the minimum to keep the course in shape,” said Wright. “We also took out all the tees and markers and placed a sign up saying the course is closed.” Unlike the issues that have had Springfield Mayor Dominic Sarno publicly chiding people for using golf courses in Springfield, places like Cold Spring and Chicopee Country Club have not had issues

See PVIAC, page 17 •

See GOLF, page 17 •

SPORTS

Sign-ups ongoing for Quabbin League

REGION – The Quabbin Valley Over-30 Baseball League is seeking new players for 2020 season. The league has six teams, several with open roster spots. Last year, the league voted to allow players age 28 and 29 to be able to join the league, though players under 30 are not eligible to pitch. The cost of the league this season is \$192. For returning players, sign-ups are extended through May 1. New players can also sign up through this date with the draft currently set for May 2.

The league hopes to begin play in early June. The season is 15 regular season games plus at least one playoff game. A modified schedule is being worked on by league officials. Games are nine innings and metal (BBCOR -3) or wood bats are allowed. Fields locations are throughout Western Mass. For more information on the league, or if you are interested in registering, go to <https://www.quabbin-valleybaseball.org/>. The league is also in Facebook.

Valley Wheel Baseball looking for players

REGION – The Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball League is seeking new players for the upcoming 2020 season. The league is seeking players ages 28 and up. Players turning 28 this year are eligible. However, only players 30 and older can pitch. The league plays 15 regular season games with games being held mostly on Sundays with a couple of weekday games thrown in the mix as well as a special Mother's Day Saturday game in early May. However, due to the current circumstances, the league schedule has been pushed back. The league

still plans to play its season once bans on gatherings are lifted. The league is built on comradery, fair play, and having a good time with friends. If interested in trying out, go to www.valleywheelbaseball.com. The rules of the league and new player forms can be found on the site. For further information, you can contact the league's commissioner, Jim Nason at wheel12@comcast.net or call him at (413) 433-4308. Tryouts will be taking place in the early weeks of April, weather permitting, with a draft following the tryouts.

PVIAC • from page 16

Conte said there are a lot of logistics that will need to be worked out if Western Mass. tournaments are to be continued under the PVIAC umbrella. Among the many logistics to be considered will be how to fund the tournaments. The MIAA helps fund the current tournaments, which include staffing the neutral sites and paying for some venues. One thing working for the PVIAC would be more flexibility in where games could be held.

Western Massachusetts would also have to consider dropping regular season games in order to find time to hold the tournament. Because the statewide tournaments will be a 32-team bracket, it will be five to six rounds. The sixth round will be a preliminary phases to get .500-qualifying teams an opportunity to make the round of 32.

Current sectional tournaments are typi-

cally played over the course of two weeks, with the semifinals and finals of a state tournament between the sectional champions occurring in a third week. All three of those weeks would likely be needed to play new state tournament format, so Stratton said it was likely a week or more would have to be removed from the end of the regular season in order to fit in a sectional tournament. This would lower the number of regular season games played by Western Mass. schools, and could hurt those schools' chances for higher seeds in a state tournament. Fewer games played could result in fewer opportunities for wins, which plays into the MaxPreps formula, which will be used to determine state tournament seeds.

While there is a hold on meetings regarding a sectional tournament during the coronavirus pandemic, the subject will continue to be discussed in the coming months.

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Athlete of the Week

Jordan Lanoue ~ Belchertown

Lanoue was part of a Belchertown boys basketball team that made tournament this season in Division 2. The Orioles fell to eventual-champion Taconic.

To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.



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GOLF • from page 16

with intruders using the course on their own.

Since the non-essential business closure, the Alliance of Massachusetts Golf Organizations negotiated with the governor to at least allow courses to begin maintaining the courses. The maintenance factor is crucial, otherwise courses run the risk that the courses will not be ready at the moment the order is lifted.

Mike O'Neill, representing Chicopee Country Club, said he was very pleased with the ability to keep the course up.

"Being allowed to continue maintenance during those temporary closures ensures the course will be ready for operations in the near future," said O'Neill. "We all share the same goal of returning to recreational normalcy, when clubs can welcome golfers back to the tee."

O'Neill encourages people to heed the advice of state and federal officials to maintain social distancing.

"We ask that the people in the Massachusetts golf community work through this together in a respectful and responsible way by following the protocols of the CDC, WHO, and local health officials," said O'Neill.



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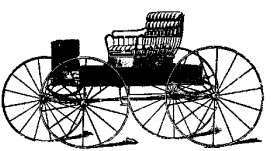
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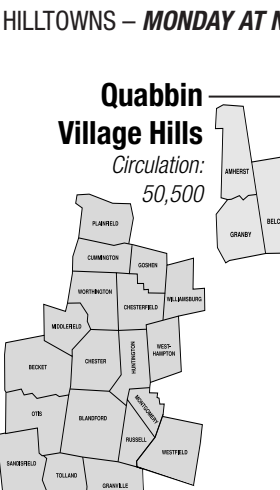
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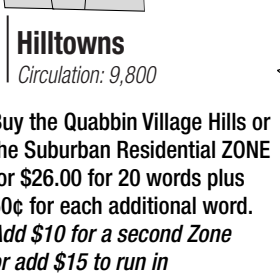
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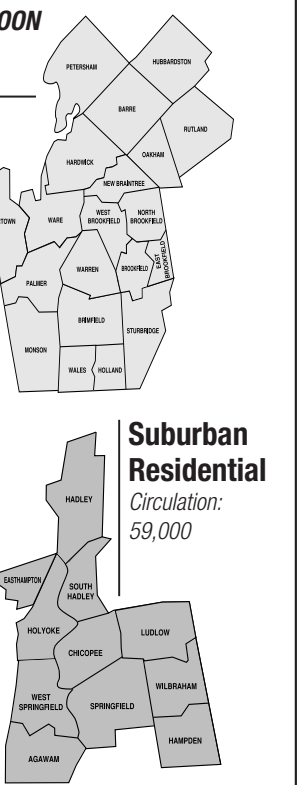
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Belchertown announces board, committee vacancies

STAFF REPORT

BELCHERTOWN - The Belchertown Selectboard is looking for citizens interested in sharing their expertise by serving on a town board/committee.

Unless otherwise stated, interested residents are encouraged to submit a letter of interest to: Board of Selectmen, The Finnerty House, One South Main Street, P.O. Box 670, Belchertown, MA 01007 or by email to selectmen@belchertown.org.

The Town wishes to fill the following vacancies:

Fair Committee: The town wishes to fill vacancies on the Fair Committee. Those interested in playing an active role in the planning process of the Annual Belchertown Fair and Parade can submit a letter of interest to the selectmen's office. The deadline extended to 12 p.m. on Wednesday, May 13.

Family Center Committee: The town is seeking to fill a vacancy on the Family Center Committee. This committee sets policy and procedures and oversees the Belchertown Family Center. The deadline is 12 p.m. on Wednesday, May 13.

Historic District By-Law Commission: There are two at-large seats

on the historic district by-law commission. The commission has regulatory control over new construction, reconstruction, alterations, movements and demolition of all exterior architectural features of buildings and structures within the Historic District which are visible from any public street, public way or public park. The deadline extended to 12 p.m. on Wednesday, May 13.

Personnel Board: The town moderator is looking for individuals who are seeking a unique volunteer opportunity. As a member of the personnel board, you will assist in the administration of the town's personnel system by interpreting and providing advice on the town's personnel by-law. Those interested in serving can send a letter of interest to the Attorney Joseph D. Bernard, Town Moderator, c/o Town Clerk, P.O. Box 629, Belchertown, MA 01007.

Zoning Board of Appeals – Associate Member: The ZBA is responsible for hearing and deciding on applications for special permits, variances and appeals from decisions of the Zoning Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector. The deadline has been extended to 12 p.m. on Wednesday, May 13.

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Dear Loyal Customers,

We would like to take this time to thank you all for your continued support of our store. We are proud of the hard work and dedication our staff has shown these past few weeks to continue providing for our community. With Easter upon us, the staff here at 90 Meat Outlet would like to wish everyone a peaceful and joyous holiday. While we may not be able to gather with our family and friends this year, just remember we are all in this together. A special thank you goes out to all the essential workers here and everywhere who have and will continue to sacrifice themselves for others. Our hope is that we continue to unite as a community and come out stronger than ever.

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Update on HIP

STAFF REPORT

REGION - In the April 6, edition of the Belchertown Sentinel, the information in the story “Lawmakers pen letter of disappointment over HIP suspension” has been updated.

Following a supplemental budget appropriation, HIP was reinstated and began operating again on March 6, 2020, according to Director of External Affairs for the Department of Transitional Assistance, Chris Power.

“The Department of Transitional Assistance announced that the Healthy Incentives Program will be operating on a seasonal schedule, pausing from February 24 to May 15, to ensure that the program is available during its peak season,” Powers wrote in an email. “HIP program participation peaks during the period of June through November of each year.”

The Healthy Incentives Program (HIP) is a state-funded incentive program that allows SNAP clients to use their SNAP benefits at a HIP-authorized-retailers to buy fruits and vegetables and earn \$1 back for each SNAP dollar spent on eligible fruits and vegetables, up to a monthly limit.

Authorized retailers include farmers’ markets, farm stands, mobile markets, and community supported agriculture (CSA) farm share programs.

In the 2019 HIP season an average of 5 percent of the SNAP caseload (more than 19,000 clients) used HIP to buy fresh fruits and vegetables from local producers.

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